

# Nuc...*brief & link*

2006-01-27 UT 03:30

NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**The Board of Directors of British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL) confirmed Toshiba Corporation as the preferred bidder for Westinghouse Electric Company.** "Toshiba offered not only the highest price but also the best value, making this the clear-cut best result for our business, for our employees and for the British taxpayers," BNFL Board Chairman Gordon Campbell said. **Press release:**

<http://www.prnewswire.co.uk/cgi/news/release?id=162653> More in the news:  
<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/7e7c530c-8e86-11da-ae63-0000779e2340.html>

**China: Datang International Power Generation announced that the company entered into an investment agreement with Guangdong Nuclear Power Investment to establish Ningde Nuclear Power Company.** Pursuant to the investment agreement, the total investment in Ningde NPC amounts to RMB23.442 billion, of which 20% will be registered capital. Initial registered capital of Ningde NPC amounts to RMB200 million. The Datang and GNPIC will contribute to the capital in the proportions of 49% and 51%, respectively, to establish the Ningde NPC **to build and operate the Ningde Nuclear Power Plant** Project in the southeastern province of Fujian. **Press release from:**

<http://www.dtpower.com/en/index.jsp>

**COGEMA La Hague** has published its overview: "Production and transport, December 2005". It comprises an update on **production data and transport schedules, spent fuel stored at the facility listed by country and receiving period, reprocessing schedule for foreign fuel and the return of vitrified residues.** Available at:

[http://www.cogema.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=cogema\\_en/communique/communique\\_full\\_template&c=communique&cid=1132047412468&p=1039482707194](http://www.cogema.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=cogema_en/communique/communique_full_template&c=communique&cid=1132047412468&p=1039482707194)

**The Global Nuclear Cleanout Coalition (GNCC) announced that it had been formed by a group of nuclear facilities and suppliers from three continents to facilitate the identification and disposition of "stranded" nuclear and radiological materials.** The GNCC is an outgrowth of the Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Return Group. The GNCC will be co-managed by Edlow International Company and RWE NUKEM GmbH. **Press release:**

[http://www.nukem.de/main\\_en.aspx?PgId=46&Pg=PRESSMSG\\_EN&pmID=39](http://www.nukem.de/main_en.aspx?PgId=46&Pg=PRESSMSG_EN&pmID=39)

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

The **European Court of First Instance** has backed a decision taken by the European Commission by ruling that a

**German tax exemption on financial reserves covering the costs of disposing nuclear waste does not amount to state aid.** The court said: "Neither the tax exemption scheme for

the reserves nor the detailed rules for the implementation by the authorities of the tax scheme in dispute grant to nuclear power stations a specific advantage inherent in the notion of state aid."

**Summary** of the courts' decision:

<http://curia.eu.int/en/actu/communiqués/cp06/aff/cp060006en.pdf>

**The Bush administration plans to announce a \$250 million initiative to reprocess spent nuclear fuel**, a first step toward reversing a 1970s policy that rejected reprocessing as too dangerous to pursue. The heart of the initiative is reprocessing technology called **UREX+** being developed by Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. It is a method of removing plutonium and other long-lived radioactive elements in spent nuclear fuel that makes the elements reusable in nuclear power plants, but difficult to use for making nuclear weapons. The initiative will also explore using one or more temporary, above-ground nuclear-waste storage sites. A feature in the Wall Street Journal:

[http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB113824318540956675.html?mod=todays\\_free\\_feature](http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB113824318540956675.html?mod=todays_free_feature)

**Russia is ready to establish an international center for uranium enrichment** on its territory, Russian President Vladimir **Putin said** at a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Community's intergovernmental council in St. Petersburg today. This process is to be supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Putin added. This proposal will be put forward at the G8 summit in July as well. News: <http://www.rbcbnews.com/free/20060125150101.shtml>

## **URANIUM**

More on the Kazakhstan deal:

**Kazatomprom created a trilateral joint venture with two Japanese firms** in order to extract and market uranium. The joint venture under the name of **Appak LLP will start pilot production of uranium as early as in 2007 and launch full-scaled commercial production up to 1,000 tons per year by 2010**. The lifetime of the joint venture will be 22 years, with a total production output scheduled at 18,000 tons. Two **press releases**:

<http://www.kazatomprom.kz/cgi-bin/index.cgi?nc79&version=en> and <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/01-24-2006/0004266184&EDATE=>

**UEX Corp. announced a \$42.0 million underwritten private placement**.

Proceeds will be used to accelerate exploration and development of UEX's uranium projects located in the Athabasca Basin area of northern Saskatchewan, Canada, and for general corporate purposes. **Press release**: <http://www.cnw.ca/fr/releases/archive/January2006/25/c0746.html> UEX will initiate a final feasibility study at **West Bear Uranium Deposit** in 2006: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2006/25/c0451.html>

**Standard Uranium Inc.** announced that it has filed its technical report on the **Palangana and Hobson Uranium In-Situ Leach (ISL) Project**, Texas. <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=577369>

## **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

### **British Energy gained entry into the index of the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) top 100 companies.**

Chief Executive Bill Coley said: "We are the largest generating company in the United Kingdom, providing 20% of the electricity for the country. Improvements in operating performance are beginning to show through." Press release:

<http://www.british-energy.com/article.php?article=113>

### **South Africa: Spanish manufacturing company Equipos Nucleares S.A. is**

the latest in a string of suitors selected for partnership with **PBMR** for the proposed construction of the pebble bed modular reactor demonstration power plant (DPP) to be built at Koeberg in the Western Cape of South Africa. The ENSA deal covers the **design and manufacture of the Main Power System (MPS) Pressure Boundary (PB)** for this reactor and is worth 312 million (Euro 39 million). **Press release:**

<http://www.pbmr.co.za/index.asp?Content=10&MState=DT&Article=69>. An interview with Jaco Kriek, CEO of PBMR gives an update of the project: [http://www.moneyweb.co.za/moneyweb\\_radio/mny\\_power\\_hour/851166.htm](http://www.moneyweb.co.za/moneyweb_radio/mny_power_hour/851166.htm)

### **India: More on Madras: After upgrading and refurbishment work,**

**Unit-1 of Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS-1)** was reconnected to the grid. The refurbishment jobs were carried out on reactor internals and other areas. These included En Masse Coolant Channel Replacement (EMCCR), replacement of moderator inlet spargers, feeders and steam generators. The unit has been uprated, from 170 MWe to 220

MWe. **Press release:**

[http://www.npcil.nic.in/pre24Jan06\\_01.asp](http://www.npcil.nic.in/pre24Jan06_01.asp)

## **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

Framatome-Siemens, the Franco-German consortium, told the Finnish News Agency (STT) that **Olkiluoto 3, Finland's fifth nuclear reactor, would be operational in the autumn of 2009, six months behind schedule** because of delays in design and component manufacturing. News:

<http://newsroom.finland.fi/stt/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=11540&group=Business>

### **Westinghouse Electric will open a new \$7 million facility**

at the company's Waltz Mill site in Madison, Pennsylvania. "This facility will allow Westinghouse to provide state-of-the-art **engineering and inspection services** to our nuclear power plant customers," said Ric Perez, vice president of Westinghouse Field Services. Release:

[http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro\\_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TI CK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-25-2006/0004267396&EDATE=Jan+25,+2006](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TI CK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-25-2006/0004267396&EDATE=Jan+25,+2006)

## **STORAGE AND WASTE**

British Nuclear Group's **2000<sup>th</sup> shipment of so-called plutonium contaminated material** was safely and successfully transferred from the Low Level Waste Repository at Drigg to the Sellafield site last week. **News feature:** <http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=33&nID=707>

### ***DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP***

**DuPont has decided to pull out of consideration for a contract to operate the Savannah River Site.** Instead, the company, which operated the former nuclear weapons plant for nearly four decades starting in 1950, will concentrate on its core businesses, DuPont Chairman and CEO Charles O. Holliday Jr. said. News: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/13713325.htm>

### ***MISCELLANEOUS***

International Commission on Radiation Protection: **The next fundamental Recommendations of ICRP** are expected to be issued in 2007. **ICRP** also recognizes the need to provide further **guidance on the interpretation of bioassay measurements.** A Supporting Guidance Document is in preparation, and will provide a significant development from the information given in previous ICRP reports on this topic. **Draft** and more: [http://www.icrp.org/news\\_guidance.asp](http://www.icrp.org/news_guidance.asp)

U.S. NRC has published its draft report on Verification and Validation of Selected **Fire Models for Nuclear Power Plant Applications.** Click: [NUREG-1824, Vols. 1-7, Draft Report for Comment](#) .

**American Capital Strategies Ltd.** announced the formation of Mirion Technologies Inc., through the merger of its U.S. portfolio companies Global Dosimetry Solutions Inc. and Imaging and Sensing Technology Corp. with its French portfolio company synOdys Group SA. "The **merger of three highly profitable leaders in the radiation measurement and protection industry** creates a global player with leading positions in the nuclear power instrumentation, civil and military defense, and health physics markets," said American Capital Chief Operating Officer Ira Wagner. **Press release:** [http://www.acas.com/news/press\\_releases/pr/pr.cfm?p\\_pr=pr20060125.html](http://www.acas.com/news/press_releases/pr/pr.cfm?p_pr=pr20060125.html)

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